

Re: Supporting Student-Centered Funding, HB 5283

March 3, 2022

Dear Chairman McCrory, Chairman Sanchez, Ranking Member Berthel, Ranking Member McCarty, Vice Chairs, and distinguished members of the committee,

My name is Colleen Broderick, and I am a citizen and parent from Ridgefield, CT.

I am writing to you today in support HB 5283. **All our Connecticut children need to be funded based on their academic, emotional, and physical needs, and they need to receive full funding immediately, not delayed by 6 more years.**

The stark funding disparities between the Ridgefield Public Schools and the Danbury Public schools is shocking. And this is just one example from our county. That we continue to fund our public schools based on property taxes is at the root of the problem. The funding formula works to correct these inequities, but it The COVID-19 pandemic has only made these disparities starker over the last two years. It is abundantly clear that the success of our students during this pandemic is significantly impacted by the amount of funding their district had access to throughout the pandemic.

Federal funds have been a huge support for my own district, which was able to provide my kids with safe, *in-person* schooling throughout the pandemic (after the initial closure), technology support, the mental health resources needed, school lunches, and a summer program and extra tutoring. However, I know that these funds will eventually run out.

The State of Connecticut needs to provide all our kids with the funding they need in order to be successful. I want all children to have access to counseling services, to be able to study in a building that has adequate ventilation (thank you, Governor Lamont!), and to have experienced and supportive teachers from all backgrounds, and reasonable class sizes.

All of our students deserve to be funded based on what they need to be successful. English Language Learners, students who are economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, and students in communities that experience concentrated poverty all deserve to be funded at a level that makes a real, tangible impact.

Over the last few years, many have talked about the need for equity in our state, with regard to race, healthcare, and socioeconomic status. Equity starts with education and providing opportunities for all our children. I hope you agree and set all our children up for success by supporting HB 5283.

Thank you,  
Colleen Broderick